

# 1 Samuel 20:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded.

## Analysis

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**And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded.**

The friends' tearful parting 'until David exceeded' shows depth of grief at separation. David's greater weeping reflected his greater loss - home, position, family, future. The threefold bowing and mutual kissing followed ancient protocols for emotional leave-taking. This poignant scene represents the cost of faithfulness: those who love deeply must sometimes part painfully.

## Historical Context

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Bowing three times indicated profound respect and honor. Kissing between men expressed deep affection in ancient Near Eastern culture. David's excessive weeping may reflect his greater uncertainty about the future.

## Related Passages

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[Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth](#)

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How do you handle grief at partings that faithfulness requires?
2. What does the depth of David's weeping teach about the emotional cost of following God's path?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּ גַם	מִאָ צָל	בְּ גַם	בְּ אַ	בְּ מִ	בְּ אַ	בְּ נִעַר
And as soon as the lad	was gone	David	arose	out of a place toward	the south	
H5288	H935	H1732	H6965	H681		H5045
לֹאָפַת יְיָ וְיִפְלֶל	וְשַׁתְּ חֹזֶה	אֲרַצָּה	וְשַׁתְּ חֹזֶה	שְׁלִשָּׁה	פְּעִמִּים	
and fell	on his face	to the ground	and bowed	himself three	times	
H5307	H639	H776	H7812	H7969	H6471	
עַד רַעַת אַת אַיִשׁ תִּשְׁקֵה וְ	רַעַת הָאֶת אַת אַיִשׁ תִּשְׁקֵה וְ					
and they kissed	one	H853	another	and wept	one	H853
H5401	H376		H7453	H1058	H376	H7453
הַגְּדִיל:	בְּ אַ					
David	exceeded					
H1732	H1431					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 29:11** (Parallel theme): And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept.

**1 Samuel 18:3** (References David): Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.